

Resolution No. 656**SUPPORT FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION (H.R.) 548 AND
SENATE FILE (S) 145 DOING AWAY WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET OF
SURVIVORS BENEFIT PROGRAM (SBP) FOR SURVIVORS OF RETIREES OVER THE
AGE OF 62**

WHEREAS, the Federal government established an annuity program for the survivors of military retirees in 1972 that was based on similar programs crafted for Civil Servants Retirement System (CSRS) and later the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This original SBP program provided an annuity to a surviving spouse and children of a military retiree of 55% of the retiree's base military pay; and

WHEREAS, the SBP legislation was subsequently changed to decrease the annuity amount paid to a surviving spouse and children of a retiree who reaches the age of 62 from 55% to 35% of the retiree's base retirement pay. The reasoning for this reduction was that Social Security and SBP should not be additive. The SBP should be offset by Social Security; and

WHEREAS, the CSRS and FERS surviving spouses and children do not have a corresponding reduction due to the commencement of Social Security benefits at age 62. The surviving spouse and children of military retiree's enrolled in SBP are singled out for an unfair reduction of an annuity that the military retiree has paid for. The net reduction in benefit at age 62 from 55% of base retirement pay to 35% of base retirement pay and full payment of Social Security Benefits; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution (H.R.) 548 and Senate File (S) 145 are designed to correct this unjust Social Security Offset of SBP annuity payments over an eight (8) year period and return a surviving spouse and children's SBP annuity payments to the full 55% of base retirement pay; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support House Resolution (H.R.) 548 and Senate File (S) 145 and urge our elected officials to support and work toward passage and enactment of these two vital pieces of legislation designed to correct an unjust and unfair reduction in SBP payments to surviving spouses and children.

Submitted by Department of Minnesota
To Committee on VETERANS SERVICE RESOLUTIONS

The intent of this resolution is:

To eliminate Social Security offset of Survivors Benefit Program (SBP) for survivors of retiree's over age 62.